THE TREATMENT

OF

SECONDARY, CONSTITUTIONAL, AND CONFIRMED

SYPHILIS,

BY A SAFE AND SUCCESSFUL METHOD.

WITH

NUMEROUS CASES, AND CLINICAL OBSERVATIONS,

ILLUSTRATING ITS EFFICACY, AND MODE OF APPLICATION, IN THE MORE OBSTINATE AND COMPLICATED FORMS OF THE DISEASE.

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LONDON:

JOHN CHURCHILL, PRINCES STREET, SOHO.

MDCCCL.

PRINTED BY C. AND J. ADLARD, BARTHOLOMEW CLOSE.

R34010

PREFACE.

The work I now publish (my third on the same subject), is not an essay on the nature, pathology, or causes of syphilitic diseases, but a clinical account of the best mode of cure. In this country, at least, we know that such diseases are rarely to be cured without mercury; and even those empiries who advertise a cure without this drug, give it, whilst they condemn it, as an examination of their remedies at once shows.

Whilst on the one hand I admit, with the best surgeons, that in this country, and in private practice more especially, the difficulty, and even impossibility, of curing venereal diseases without mercury, I think that the ordinary modes of its exhibition not only frequently fail in curing the diseases for which it is given, but a class of affections are constantly produced which are the result of mercurial treatments, so that on many forms of constitutional syphilis being presented to our notice, it is difficult to say how

much is the result of specific disease, and how much due to the remedy which has been employed for its cure; frequently, indeed, a peculiar constitutional affection has been produced, which has entirely changed the natural and regular course of the malady, and which would not have existed if mercury had not been given.

In the course of an extensive practice in syphilitic diseases for fifteen or sixteen years, the evils just detailed have constantly been forced upon me. On the one hand, patients are frequently presented to notice who cannot take mercury internally in any form, whilst another class have taken this remedy, under various forms, internally, and yet their diseases are not only uncured, but other symptoms have been added which have still more complicated the original malady.

Again, ordinary mercurial treatments, if they cure the disease for which they are prescribed are attended with a variety of evils which are exceedingly annoying to the patient, and in many instances make the remedy worse than the disease.

The plan of treatment which the following pages advocate and illustrate, does away with all the evils generally attributable to mercurial

treatments, whilst it possesses all their advantages. It does not, in ordinary cases, require confinement; it never impairs the appetite; does not produce salivation, or ulceration of the mouth, mercurial erythismus or blotches on the skin; and if associated with internal treatment by mercury, reduces what is required to an exceedingly minute quantity. In addition to this, treatments according to my plan are safer, quicker, more certain, less frequently followed by relapses, indeed very rarely so, and again are capable of working cures in obstinate cases which have resisted all other modes of treatment.

The method which I practise consists in applying the vapour of the bisulphuret, grey oxide, binoxide, or iodide of mercury in a moist state, to the whole surface of the body, by which, after the continuance of the process for twenty or thirty minutes, profuse perspiration is induced. This process is repeated as frequently as the nature of the case may require till a cure be effected, and is or is not associated with internal medicines.

The dry mercurial vapour has been long employed in the treatment of various forms of syphilitic disease, and has had many advocates; but

whether from the imperfect mode of its application its effects have been uncertain, and it has fallen into disuse. A German surgeon, named Werneck, has used it more methodically, and his success has been much more satisfactory. The method I employ has vast advantages over the dry fumigation; its effects are certain, and can be regulated to a great nicety, and the heat and moisture produced during the time the patient is exposed to the vapour of mercury, by inducing profuse perspiration, contribute, no doubt, materially to the perfect cure of the disease. However, I have constantly succeeded with this plan when the dry fumigation has failed altogether, or produced little effect.

The speedy and perfect cure of many of the cases detailed in the following pages has been very remarkable, as a perusal of their history will show; and a vast number of patients have been perfectly and permanently restored to health by comparatively short treatments by this plan, after the failure of all ordinary treatments pursued through a long series of years.

20, Colmore Row, Birmingham;
February, 1850.

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TREATMENT
OF
SECONDARY SYPHILIS.

Introductory.

Ten years ago I published the first edition of my work, entitled, The Modern Treatment of Syphilitic Diseases; and six years afterwards, a second edition of the same work, in which I first drew attention to the cure of all forms of constitutional Syphilis by means of moist mercurial vapour. During the last sixteen years I have been extensively engaged in the treatment of syphilitic diseases, both in Hospital and Private practice, but more particularly in the latter, and have constantly been annoyed and disappointed by the inconvenience and failure of the ordinary modes of treatment, whether these be considered in their effects upon the convenience and constitution of the patient, or in their influence upon the perfect cure, and eradication of the disease.

How often has it happened to myself, and

Introductory.

must have done to all other surgeons, to be consulted by patients labouring under all the evils of a mercurial course, and yet the disease, for which the remedy was given which has produced such effects, still as far from a cure as when the remedy was at first employed. (Cases 1, 12, 24, 30, 31, &c.) Few things are more uncertain than the *permanent or complete cure* of Syphilis, whether primary, secondary, or tertiary, local or constitutional, by the ordinary modes of mercurial treatment. The cure by frictions is more certain than when mercury is given by the mouth. In hospitals the cures by these methods are more certain than in private practice, since in the former we can regulate the diet and auxiliary measures, such as rest in bed, &c., which materially tend to the success of such treatments. In private practice this is impossible, for reasons which must be obvious to all. Even in hospitals, where patients are placed in the most favorable condition, treatments by internal medicines, and by frictions are constantly failing, the cures are generally more apparent than permanent, and,

Uncertainty of ordinary treatments.

Introductory.

when perfectly successful, require long periods of time, great care, watchfulness, and attention.

Evils of internal mercurial treatments.

Some authors have asserted, and with truth, that many of the diseases, known as secondary or constitutional Syphilis, are not exclusively due to Syphilis; but to the mercury which has been given for its cure. There can be no question of the truth of this assertion in a vast number of cases; pains in the bones, peculiar conditions of the mouth and throat, a variety of skin diseases are no doubt owing either to the injudicious or excessive use of mercury, or to peculiarities of constitution inimical to the use of mercury even in very small quantities.

Difficulties surrounding these treatments.

I do not believe that it is possible to cure the great majority of venereal diseases without mercury, and yet how many patients have I seen who could not take even a few grains of this medicine internally without mischief, and who could not even use it by friction, and again how often have I seen patients broken down by mercurial courses, with their diseases not only uncured, but actually worse than when they commenced the use of medicines.

Introductory.

I intend in the present work to give, in a more detailed manner than I have yet done, an account of the method I employ in the cure of constitutional venereal diseases, a method which requires a small amount of internal medicine, is conducted without risk, and in a vast majority of instances with a certainty of success, and permanent cure in a short period of time.

The author's method.

I have denominated the method I employ "the mercurial vapour-bath," because it consists in surrounding the patient with an atmosphere of mercurial vapour in a moist state. It has all the advantages attributed to the best conducted, most successful, and least hurtful mercurial treatments conducted in the ordinary modes; it has none of their disadvantages; it neither produces mercurial fever, salivation, ulcerations of the mouth, erythismus, debility, or any form of cachexia, so common from prolonged ordinary mercurial treatments. It has the superior advantages of effecting speedy and permanent cures, without confinement and without risk.

Mode of application.

The patient is placed on a chair, and covered with an oilcloth, lined with flannel, which is supported by a proper framework. Under the chair are placed a copper bath, containing water, and a metal plate, on which is put from one to three drachms of the bisulphuret of mercury, or the same quantity of the gray oxide, or the binoxide. Under each of these a spirit-lamp. The patient is thus exposed to the influence of three agents, heated air, common steam, and the vapour of mercury, which is thus applied to the whole surface of the body in a moist state. After the patient has remained in the bath from five to ten minutes perspiration generally commences, and by the end of twenty or thirty minutes, beyond which I do not prolong the bath, it is generally excessive. The lamps are now removed, and the temperature gradually allowed to sink; when the patient has become moderately cool the coverings are removed, and the body rubbed dry; the patient is suffered to repose in an armchair for a short time, during which he drinks a cup of warm decoc-

tion of guaiacum, sweetened with syrup of sarsaparilla.

Modifications to suit particular cases.

The apparatus requires some modification, and management to suit particular cases. Where it is wanted to induce a quick and decided action the whole power of the bath should be brought into operation, and the largest quantity of mercury should be employed. In rapidly-spreading ulcers this is required. (See Cases 3, 6.) Again, in chronic skin or throat diseases, where a powerful action would rather oppress the patient than cure his disease, the power of the bath should be modified, and not so great a heat or so much mercury employed. This is accomplished by using smaller spirit-lamps, or, when perspiration has once been induced, by the removal of one lamp, leaving the patient thus exposed for a time to the mercurial vapour alone. This should be done where the patient has been broken down by long-continued disease, in bad or weak subjects, (see Cases 1, 8, 9,) or where a more prolonged action is required to eradicate the more deep-seated effects of the venereal poison, as in

diseases of the bones, or indurations on the penis. (Cases 10, 13, 14, 23.) Each particular case would require a greater or less modification of this kind. The form of mercurial employed is also of consequence. In skin diseases the bisulphuret is to be preferred, in diseases of the throat or nose the gray oxide, or binoxide is better, because the patient can bear the head immersed without sneezing or coughing, which he cannot do when the bisulphuret is used.

Preparations of mercury to be employed.

I am in the habit of using four mercurial preparations for the bath; the bisulphuret of mercury, the binoxide of mercury, the gray or black oxide, and the iodide. These may be used singly or combined in different ways, to suit the peculiarities or emergencies of each particular case. The first three preparations are milder than the last, and from half a drachm to four drachms may be used for a bath with perfect safety. In one case (26) half an ounce was used for each bath, and two applications were sufficient to bring the system fully under the influence of the remedy. The iodide

must be used in smaller quantities; nearly the whole of this preparation is rapidly converted into vapour, and, unlike all the other preparations, leaves scarcely any ash behind it. From five grains to half a drachm of the iodide is sufficient, and it is better to use it in small quantities, mixed with a larger quantity of either of the other preparations. In affections of the testes (sarcocele) and of the bones (the various forms of ostitis, or periostitis) a combination of a scruple of the iodide, and one or two drachms of the bisulphuret or binoxide would be a proper form. (See Case 31.) For local application to the cavities of the nose or mouth, a few grains only should be employed, as the vapour of the iodide of mercury is more irritating and more powerful than that of either of the other preparations I have mentioned.

Preparatory treatment.

A short preparatory treatment should be adopted before using the baths. The bowels should be kept free, and the use of wine, spirits, &c., prohibited. The patient should be free from fever, the tongue clean, and the

freedom from organic diseases, such as those of the heart and lungs, more particularly, should be ascertained. Should such, or other complications be present, they might require modifications of treatment, but would not prevent its employ, as this is not only the most certain, but the safest way of curing all forms of constitutional syphilis.

General management during the use of the Baths.

The plan of treatment I am advocating does not require that the patient should forego his ordinary occupations of business, or that he should be confined to the house during its use. It must be admitted that its effects would be accclerated by confinement to bed, or to a couch in a moderatcly warm room; but this is by no means necessary, and I have very rarely advised it, except in such cases where exposure or exercise would be positively mischievous, as in cases of sloughing, or rapidly-spreading ulcers in the throat or elsewhcrc.

Diet.

The dict should be light, nutritious, and unstimulating; milk, chocolate or cocoa, night and morning; animal food for dinner, with weak wine-and-water. Where the patient has

been reduced by mercury given internally, or by a combination of syphilis and mercury, the diet may be more nutritious; but stimulants should be avoided. Smoking must be prohibited, particularly in diseases of the throat and nose.

Medicines during the use of the Baths.

In a great majority of cases the moist mercurial vapour, employed as I have directed, is capable of curing the disease without the assistance of internal medicine; but the cure is generally expedited by the administration of the latter in small quantities. The treatment is always assisted by the decoction of sarsaparilla or guaiacum, drank warm night and morning, and immediately after leaving the bath. I prefer the latter, the compound decoction, made according to the formula of the Edinburgh Pharmacopœia. Where other medicines are required to assist the treatment, and I allude particularly to the various preparations of mercury, it is surprising how small a quantity is required when the patient is using the vapour. I have known several instances where diseases which have been rebellious to large quantities

of mercury, given for long periods, yield immediately the baths were employed. The effects of mercury upon the system become very quickly manifest under the influence of the baths, when the system had previously resisted this influence. When I employ mercury internally, during the use of the baths, it is either under the form of the biniodide, or bichloride given in solution in small quantities, not exceeding the twentieth of a grain for a dose. The use of this medicine in drachm doses of the ointment in form of friction, in five grains of blue-pill or calomel, two or three times a day, under the old plan of treating venereal diseases by mercury, can never be required, except it is wished to break up the health and constitution of the patient. How many have never recovered from internal mercurial treatments of this kind. I never saw the most delicate patient, either male or female, whose health was injured for one hour under the plan I recommend, and I have very rarely seen a disease that has not been cured without a relapse. The experience derived from the

Safety of the Author's method.

treatment of many hundred cases warrants me in speaking thus positively on the subject.

Time and certainty of success as compared with other treatments.

The time occupied in the cure of venereal diseases by the mercurial vapour-bath is vastly less than that consumed by any other kind of treatment; its effects are commonly immediate, one full bath very frequently making at once an impression on the disease. Where the hair has been falling rapidly, one bath has arrested this (see Cases 12, 21); ulcers which have been rapidly spreading have been rendered stationary by one bath (Cases 3, 6.) After two or three baths, the improvement is in most instances marked; and the cure is effected in one fourth, or even one sixth of the time required for the success of ordinary treatments. The nature of the cases determines the time occupied in the cure. In superficial skin diseases, or superficial ulcers of the nose and throat, the cure is very rapid. I have constantly known affections of this kind entirely cured in a fortnight or three weeks, without fear of relapse, and with pleasure rather than inconvenience to the patients.

Diseases most rebellious.

In enlargements of the bones and testes, in indurations of the penis, persistent induration of the cicatrix of a primary sore, the cure is necessarily more tedious; the change of structure produced in such diseases must have time for removal; nevertheless, in these cases, which require months of treatment, under common circumstances, and which are not unfrequently considered or given up as incurable, the moist mercurial vapour will do more in a month than any other treatment in six. I have known cases (13, 23) of induration of the penis, removed in three or four weeks, which have not shown the slightest disposition to amendment after weeks, and even months, of ordinary internal treatment.

Relapses take place very rarely.

All authors and all surgeons conversant with the treatment of syphilitic diseases, admit the frequency of relapses under ordinary treatments; hence constitutional diseases are to be feared as the result of primary ulcers; and when one form of constitutional taint has been apparently cured, it is commonly, after a time, succeeded by another. Thus venereal diseases

run through those phases or grades which have been termed primary, secondary, and tertiary; and it has been a primary object in all plans of treatment to have recourse to those which, whilst they cure the disease then present in the best manner, and with the least risk, shall prevent the occurrence of future diseases under another form. Nothing is more uncommon than a relapse after treatment by the vapour. I do not recollect more than three or four occurrences of this kind, and these have been of the most trivial character. I have generally given the patient the most positive assurances on this point, and I may say I have not been disappointed. I have not seen secondary symptoms succeed to primary sores treated by the baths, and I have used them in all cases that would probably be followed by such an occurrence.

Effects of the Baths on the patient.

The effects of the mercurial vapour-bath upon the patient vary under different circumstances. If the general health of the patient be apparently good, and we have to control a single isolated symptom of disease, such as a primary

sore, an enlarged testis, or an indurated cicatrix, and the baths be used too frequently, the patient would become a little languid, and probably a little thinner; this would be avoided by properly timing the intervals between the baths. Should the patient be labouring under general constitutional taint, and exhibit as local symptoms loss of hair, sore throat, ulcers of the nose, or skin diseases, he almost invariably gets fat under the treatment. The mouth is commonly affected, after using four or six baths, more quickly if the head be immersed, which is better; the patient can bear the head in the bath for five, ten, or even twenty minutes without inconvenience; patients vary in this particular; and it depends very much on the form of mercurial employed. The gums, when affected, are red, elevated, and tender, but the baths never produce salivation, or ulceration of the mouth.

Cases most favorable for the employment of the Vapour.

Some forms of constitutional syphilitic diseases more readily yield to the use of the vapour than others. Some are cured with an extraordinary degree of rapidity, and are per-

fectly curcd, which is proved by their not having relapsed, or presented a fresh venereal symptom after many years. These forms are superficial diseases of the skin (Case 2), loss of hair (Cases 5, 12, 17, 21), superficial ulcerations of the nose and throat (Cases 14, 15, 17).

Some varieties require a longcr trcatment, as diseases of thc deeper-seated parts of the skin (Cases 1, 8), some forms of ulceration (Cases 14, 15), diseases of the testicles (Case 7), and of the bones (Cases 4, 10, 14, 20).

Applicable to all forms of secondary disease.

To all forms of constitutional syphilitic disease, the trcatment by vapour is applicable, and beyond all doubt the most speedy, certain, and safe remcdy that can be employed, yet thcre are some forms of disease which yield with greater rapidity than others. That which gives way with the greatest difficulty is the induration which succeeds to the healing of a primary sore. I do not mean that soft fulness which is sometimes found in such situations, but that cartilaginous hardness which is met with undcr thc skin, and which is sure, sooner or later, to end in local or constitutional mis-

chief. I have seen cases (18, 23), which have resisted all modes of treatment but the baths; to these they yield but slowly, but they do yield, and with certainty, after other plans of treatment have been followed for months without success, or with but partial amendment.

CASES.

Case 1.

Regular primary sore—Ordinary mercurial treatment—Pustular disease of the skin as a secondary affection—Failure of mercurial treatment under another form—Perfect cure by the baths.

Symptoms.

A young man, named Poulton, came under my care some years ago as a home patient of the Queen's Hospital. He had had primary sores of some magnitude six months prior to my seeing him, for which mercury had been given by the mouth; he was salivated, but the ulcers had not healed. During this treatment the skin became covered with a regular pustular eruption, for which mercury, under other forms, had been recommended and taken. The pustules broke, and either degenerated into foul ulcers, or became covered with dark-coloured crusts; where they had healed, leaving a dark red cicatrix deeply depressed in the skin.

Case 1. When I first saw the patient the teeth were loose, the appetite gone, the feet swollen, and he was so weak that he could not sit upright in his chair. What was to be done in such a case? Broken down by disease and remedy, it appeared almost a hopeless affair.

Treatment. He took the ordinary decoctions of the woods for some time with little benefit, and at length I sent him into the hospital and put him upon the use of the "mercurial vapour-bath." He was ordered the compound decoction of sarsaparilla, with beef-tea, and with small doses of the extract of opium. The baths were taken every other day, and after each bath, each separate ulcer, of which there were more than a hundred upon the body, was carefully dressed and rolled. In one month this patient was well; at this period he had not a sore upon his body, and he has never relapsed.

The cure in this case is altogether to be attributed to the baths. The sarsaparilla and opium were but accessory remedies, and the patient had tried them without benefit before the baths were used.

Case 2.

Superficial primary sores—inability to take mercury—
Healing of the sores under ordinary treatment—
Secondary disease in the skin, throat, and nose—
Cure of all the symptoms by the Baths.

Symptoms.

A gentleman consulted me respecting certain symptoms, which he considered, and which doubtless were, due to constitutional syphilis. He had had primary ulcers eight months previously, for which he could not take mercury; the smallest quantity produced diarrhœa, and it even affected him so, when used by friction. The ulcers had healed under a simple treatment, but, soon afterwards, the skin became covered with small, scaly blotches; there was deep redness of the throat and nasal fossæ, and the hair and eyebrows came off rapidly. He had taken iodine and sarsaparilla, under various forms, without success; occasionally there was a partial amendment, but he constantly relapsed when medicine was discontinued.

So confident was I of success in this case, that I predicted a cure by the baths in three

Case 2. weeks. I told my patient he would not relapse. The result justified my prophecy.

Treatment. The baths were used twelve times, the gums rendered uneasy and swollen, but nothing more, not a bad symptom accompanied the treatment, and the patient has had no fresh symptom for fifteen months. He took no internal medicines whilst under my care. The third bath checked the falling of the hair and eyebrows, which began rapidly to reappear before the termination of the treatment.

Case 3.

Phagedæna of the throat immediately arrested by the use of the Baths.

Symptoms. A lady, aged 34, had, six years ago (May, 1840), a superficial ulceration of the throat, her husband at the same time suffering from the same disease. She had also large pustular scabs on the legs, and her health was bad. She took the bichloride of mercury with sarsaparilla, for some time, and apparently recovered. For six years she remained apparently well.

In May 1846, she began to suffer from cough, and emaciated a good deal, yet there was no physical sign of disease of the lungs. At this period she complained of sore throat, and on inspection the soft palate had a swollen, thickened appearance. In this state she went into Wales, from whence she returned in a fortnight, her throat having got rapidly worse. There was now a small hole in the soft palate, with a white margin, and the whole of the throat was intensely red; there was also an ill-conditioned ulcer, with a white slough, in the left nostril, which threatened speedily to perforate the nose.

Case 3.

Phagedæna of the throat.

The danger was imminent, and the state of the parts such as to lead me to fear a very serious and extensive mutilation, as the ulcers in the throat and nose had only been present two days, and already the soft palate was eaten through in one place, and two other small ulcers threatened to perforate it in others.

What was to be done in such a case? There were no ordinary modes of treatment that could have been brought to bear upon

Uncertainty of ordinary treatments in such diseases.

Case 3. such a state of things in less than three or four days, and by that time the mutilations would have been fearful, as disease was spreading with great rapidity.

Treatment by the vapour. I determined to submit my patient at once to the action of the mercurial vapour-bath, in which she was placed with the head immersed, for half an hour; this was repeated on the next and succeeding days, when the gums became tender and swollen. The first bath arrested the whole of the ulcerative process; on the third day the sloughs had fallen, and the ulcers looked healthy. Six more baths, at longer intervals, completed the cure, there not remaining, at the end of eighteen days, any apparent disease, except the perforation in the soft palate, which was small, and occasioned but little inconvenience.

Medicines. I directed this lady, who was of a weak habit of body, to take afterwards for some time the iodide of iron, with a decoction of sarsaparilla. She has had no new symptom now for nearly two years, and it is to be hoped, as I think, that the cure is permanent.

Case 4.

Discharge from the urethra as a primary symptom—scaly blotches on the skin, and a node on the forehead, as constitutional symptoms—Perfect cure by the Baths.

A gentleman consulted me respecting a lump on his forehead, which was red, tender, and painful; he had upon different parts of the body, and on the head more particularly, some dry, scaly blotches; his hair also came off rapidly. He had no primary venereal disease, except a discharge from the urethra, concerning the nature of which there had been some difference of opinion. It clearly had not been gonorrhœa, and had resisted the usual remedies employed in that disease. The discharge no longer existed when I first saw the patient, and I could not find in the urethra, on examination, any trace of the previous existence of an ulcer. Symptoms.

I recommended the use of the baths, which were given every other day. I prescribed no internal medicines. At the end of three weeks Treatment.

Case 4. all the symptoms had disappeared, and the hair was coming on rapidly.

About a year afterwards this gentleman called on me, when passing through Birmingham, and told me he had not had any return of complaint.

Remarks on the loss of hair, &c.

Loss of the hair is one of the commonest symptoms of constitutional syphilis, and one which generally follows superficial sores; its nature is frequently deceptive, since, if it occur at that period when the hair is lost from natural causes, it is very apt to be overlooked altogether. I have seen several instances of this. On carefully examining a patient, where this appears the only symptom, we shall commonly find others to strengthen our diagnosis, if the loss of hair arise from venereal taint. One of the most common is an inordinately red condition of the mucous membrane of the nostrils, with or without an increased or altered condition of the secretions from these parts.

Effects of the vapour in such cases.

I consider the baths in such cases all but specific, I have never seen them fail. In

almost all instances one or two baths has arrested the fall of the hair, and before half a dozen have been taken the hair almost invariably begins to grow and thicken. I have seen the eyebrows and whiskers, lost under these circumstances, quickly restored by the use of the baths. Case 4.

Case 5.

Chronic ulceration of the throat—Total loss of the hair —Failure of ordinary treatment — Cure by the Baths.

A gentleman, aged 32, was sent to me for my opinion respecting his throat, which was inflamed and ulcerated, and had resisted the ordinary means of cure. The throat had been some months in this state, sometimes better, at others worse, but never getting quite well. It was of venereal origin, and he had had ulcers on the penis about four months previous to the commencement of disease in the throat. There was intense redness of the nostrils accompanying this condition of the throat, and he had completely lost his hair, and now wore a wig. Symptoms.

Case 5. This patient had taken mercury, iodine, and sarsaparilla, under various forms, without success.

He was completely cured by the baths, taken every other day, in one month; tenderness and swelling of the gums was produced but nothing more. He took no medicines internally during this course, and has not relapsed.

Effects of the bath in phagedæna.

Where it is important to produce a marked and immediate impression on the system, &c., to arrest the progress of rapid ulceration, or sloughing, as in the various forms of phagedæna; this plan of treatment cannot be estimated too highly. I have seen phagedæna in the nose, throat, and on the penis, stopped at once by immersion in the baths for half or three parts of an hour. No other remedy can be brought to bear thus speedily upon diseases of this nature, and the mutilations and losses of substance which occur in such states take place whilst we are waiting for the action of remedies.

Case 6.

Sloughing phagedæna of the urethra and glans penis arrested immediately by the Baths.

A gentleman contracted, from a suspicious connection, a discharge from his urethra, which in the commencement was supposed to be gonorrhœa, and for which he was treated. The discharge did not yield to the remedies employed, and about ten days afterwards there appeared round the orifice of the urethra a white ring of ulceration, which spread rapidly. His surgeon became alarmed, and sent him to Birmingham, to be placed under my care. When I first saw this case there was an ulcer the size of a shilling surrounding the meatus, covered with a white slough, and the whole of the glans penis was intensely red, swollen, and shining. On separating the lips of the urethra the ulcer was seen to extend some distance down the passage. Symptoms.

I placed this patient immediately in the bath, and kept him there nearly an hour; he was directed afterwards to take a full dose of Treatment.

Case 6. opium, to apply some decoction of poppies to the part, and to confine himself strictly to bed. On the next day the bath was repeated, and the same practice followed. On the third day the bath was again taken by which time the sloughs were separating, and a healthy granular surface appeared underneath.

Effects of the baths. There had been no extension of ulceration since the first bath. Nine baths completed this patient's cure in less than three weeks, and the medicines employed, as well as the local applications, were of the simplest character. The mutilation was very trivial. The under surface of the urethra and glans penis was destroyed to a small extent, but from this the patient suffered very little inconvenience.

Observations. This was a case of phagedænic ulceration, commencing, as it frequently does, in or at the orifice of the urethra, with the nature of which I was unhappily too familiar, having seen frightful mutilation from sores of this nature under ordinary plans of treatment.

The first case of secondary phagedæna of the throat, in which I had employed the mer-

curial vapour-bath, had been so successful, that I felt confident of success here, and the result justified my expectations. I reflected that rules of practice in cases of phagedæna were quite unsettled, mercury being frequently employed as a last resource after the failure of other remedies. It is during this period, of bringing remedies to bear upon the disease, and the uncertainty of what to use, that the mutilations so commonly witnessed in such diseases occur. The remedies which I advocate are without risk, and may be employed from the very first appearance of phagedæna, with every hope of success even in the worst cases. Case 6.

Case 7.

Chronic enlargement of the testis—The primary affection consisting in enlargement of the glands in the groin, with superficial ulceration of the glans penis and prepuce—Successful treatment by the Baths.

A gentleman, aged 26, contracted from a suspicious connection superficial sores which were situated on the glans and prepuce; he Symptoms.

Case 7. had succeeding to these, enlargement of the glands in the left groin, which were painful and tender, but after a time subsided without suppuration. Some time afterwards this gentleman married, and soon afterwards the right testis began to feel heavy and uneasy, and gradually increased in size.

Syphilitic sarcocele; When I was first consulted on this case the testis was as large as a turkey's egg, hard, but not painful or tender. I considered it of venereal origin; the patient was not of strumous habit or family, and, on examining him carefully, I found that his hair came off, and that the mucous membrane of the nostrils was intensely red, and there were one or two spots of superficial ulceration.

Treatment of. I recommended this patient to use the baths every other day. After the fifth bath the gums were a little uneasy, and, generally red and elevated. The patient took five more baths at longer intervals. The cure was complete in six weeks, the patient pursuing his customary avocations during the whole time of treatment.

Remarks. There can be no question as to the venereal

origin of this disease of the testis. The history and concomitant constitutional symptoms place the matter beyond doubt. I consider the condition of the mucous membrane of the nostrils one of the best tests of the nature of many constitutional forms of disease, about the true character of which there might otherwise be some degree of uncertainty. If this disease of the testis had occurred without any other symptom there might have been a doubt as to its true nature; but, coexisting with loss of the hair in a young man, and with an inflamed and ulcerated condition of the nostrils, we cannot hesitate to pronounce it syphilitic. CASE 7.

The ordinary treatment of such a disease would have been either a long uncertain treatment by iodine, or a more certain mercurial course, which must have confined the patient to the house, and most likely to his bed, for an uncertain period. The baths were perfectly successful in a short time, without one hour's confinement, or hinderance from business, and with benefit rather than injury to the general health, a risk that must be always run under Comparison of methods of treatment.

Case 7. the ordinary forms of mercurial treatment, and yet the patient is not safe, and can rarely be cured without it.

Case 8.

Regular primary sore, with induration; succeeded by pustular disease of the skin, and impaired general health—Rapid cure by the Baths.

Symptoms. A young gentleman contracted a chancre, the knowledge of which, from certain family reasons and fears, he for some time kept to himself. Several weeks afterwards I first saw him, and he had then undergone no treatment. There was a considerable induration between the glans and prepuce, on the summit of which was the primary sore not yet healed. The skin was covered with a well-marked pustular eruption. The pustules were in various stages, some recent, others broken and covered with eschars, and others again had degenerated into open sores. He was pale and emaciated, and his general health much impaired by his disease, which had now existed fourteen or fif-

teen weeks. His state of health was such as entirely to preclude a mercurial course, either by the mouth or by friction. Case 8.

I recommended the use of the baths, and directed him to take half a grain of the extract of opium, three times a day, and some warm decoction of sarsaparilla night and morning. The open ulcers were dressed with a weak black-wash, covered with oiled silk, and bandaged. This patient took fourteen baths. At the end of a month he was well, had recovered his health and strength, and his disease was cured. He has had no fresh venereal symptom for some years. Treatment.

In this case there was both a primary and secondary disease to combat; a primary indurated venereal sore yet open, when the constitutional or secondary symptoms appeared, and these occurring in a constitution originally delicate, and still more impaired by syphilis. It is, in such a class of cases, exceedingly common, that the application of the moist mercurial vapour is invaluable, perfectly harmless in its application, and all but positively certain in its effects. Observations.

Case 9.

Pustular disease of the skin—Ulcers of the throat—Severe nocturnal pains in the hips, legs, and head—Impaired general health—Rapid cure by the Baths.

Symptoms. A young man, aged 24, was sent to me from Coventry, suffering from a formidable skin disease of venereal origin. He had had twelve months previously what appeared to be a regular primary sore, for which he had taken mercury to salivation. Under this treatment the ulcer closed; but before it was quite well he became covered with a well-marked eruption of venereal pustules. The disease had run the regular course of all pustular venereal eruptions. The pustules were, in some places, recent, in others covered with dark brown crusts; the crusts had fallen off in other situations, and left foul, dirty, irregular sores underneath; in one or two places the ulcers had healed, and left deep, red depressions in the skin. In addition to the skin disease there was an ulcer on each tonsil. This patient was pallid, weak, and emaciated, and so crippled with pains in the hips and shin-bones

that he could not walk without a crutch and a stick, and got up-stairs with the greatest pain and difficulty. He had undergone a variety of treatment without success. Case 9.

This patient was directed to take the baths every other day. I prescribed for him small doses of opium and camphor, and the decoction of guaiacum to be drank warm morning and evening. Treatment.

The ulcers were dressed as in the last case. After the third bath this patient walked up-stairs without assistance, and his pains were all but gone. In less than six weeks he was quite cured, he had gained flesh considerably, and his appetite and health were good. He had not been confined an hour by his treatment, and he has never relapsed, a circumstance so common after ordinary mercurial treatments. He had tried the common vapour-bath when away from me with very little benefit.

The mercurial vapour-bath is very efficacious, if not specific, in removing those pains, compounded of syphilis and mercury, which have Remarks.

Case 9. been produced by or succeeded to internal mercurial courses, prescribed for the cure of either primary or constitutional Syphilis. The detail of the last case illustrates this position. I can bring forward another in support of it.

Case 10.

Severe pains in the limbs, succeeding to a primary and secondary venereal disease, treated by large quantities of mercury internally—Radical and quick cure by the Baths.

Symptoms. A young gentleman contracted syphilis in a seaport abroad, and was treated by large quantities of mercury by the surgeon of his vessel.

His primary disease was cured, but a pustular eruption subsequently made its appearance, and the glands of the groin on both sides became enlarged and tender. Before he returned to England the skin disease had nearly disappeared, but there remained copper-coloured depressions in the skin, marking the situations where the pustules had been, and these places were at times much inflamed and threatened to ulcerate again. The worst sym-

ptoms under which this patient laboured were, pains in the limbs, groins, and different parts of the body, due either to exposure during his mercurial course, or to a combination of the remedy and disease yet remaining in the system. The pains harassed him severely, and an apprehension of a further outbreak of disease rendered his life wretched. Case 10.

I directed the baths to be used every other day, gave him small doses of opium, and recommended him to drink some warm decoction of guaiacum night and morning. He got rapidly well; in a few weeks the depressions were no longer discoloured, the pains had left him, and the glands in the groin were reduced in size. This patient was radically cured; he has never relapsed. Treatment.

It sometimes happens, I may say frequently, that patients who had passed through the whole ordinary routine of treatment for the cure of Syphilis, and have been subjected to mercurial courses in different ways, three or four times, apply for relief for symptoms that still remain Remarks on some symptoms of protracted syphilis.

Case 10.

Diseases of the epidermis and its appendages.

uneured, or which have appeared after they had believed themselves perfectly safe. These symptoms are very commonly confined to the epidermis and its appendages, and make their appearanee in the form of dry scales on the palms of the hands, from which the epidermis ultimately peels off; sometimes the nails eraek and break, or dry shining scales appear about the matrix of the nails themselves. Sometimes there are dry white patches on different parts of the skin, and with these appearanees there is eommonly a dryness of the throat and nostrils, and the hair and whiskers almost invariably get thin. There are sometimes, coexisting with these symptoms, pains of various kinds both in the bones and soft parts. In such states after almost all varieties of internal remedies have been used, and yet disease remains, the baths become of the greatest utility, and rarely fail in working a speedy and permanent eure. I bring forward one or two cases in illustration.

Case 11.

Regular primary sore—treatment by frictions—Skin and throat disease as secondary affections—Subsequently peeling of the epidermis from the palms of the hands.

A gentleman contracted what appeared to have been a regular primary venereal ulcer, for which he took mercury by the mouth, and also used it by friction. He was salivated by this treatment. The ulcer was some time in healing, and before it was quite closed he became covered with red shining patches, and had a sore throat. For these symptoms he underwent a further mercurial treatment. For some time he fancied himself well, though occasionally would break out a scaly blotch on various parts of the body. To these he paid little attention. At a later period the palms of the hands, in places, appeared as though they had been blistered, the epidermis was raised, as by a blister, and then peeled off, speading in circles exactly like fairy rings. Both hands were affected. Symptoms.

He was directed to use the mercurial vapour- Treatment.

Case 11. bath every other day for half an hour, and to drink some warm decoction of guaiacum. There was no complaint remaining at the end of six weeks, and there has been no relapse. He has remained without any fresh symptom for nearly four years.

Case 12.

Superficial primary ulcers in the commencement—As constitutional symptoms: scaly blotches on the skin, superficial inflammation and ulceration of the throat, peeling of the epidermis from the palms of the hands, scaly condition of the nails, loss of the hair, eyebrows, and whiskers—Cure by the Baths.

Symptoms. A gentleman consulted me for superficial ulceration of the throat, which he considered was venereal, and which doubtless was so, for it was accompanied by other symptoms which could not be mistaken. The membrane of the nostrils was intensely red; there were a few scaly spots on the body; the epidermis peeled off in white, dry patches from the palms of the hands; and the same scurfy condition existed round the roots of the nails. The eyebrows

and whiskers fell from the least touch. This patient had taken mercury in various ways; his disease from time to time abated, but he constantly relapsed, and the symptoms I have detailed had been in existence nine months. The primary disease had consisted of three or four superficial sores, which he had been assured were not venereal. Case 12.

As this affection was perfectly chronic, and not making any rapid advances, I directed the baths to be used only twice a-week, and during their use, a teacupful of warm decoction of guaiacum night and morning. In six weeks this patient got well, and after many months had not had any fresh symptom. Treatment.

I have to speak now of one or two cases of a different kind to any previously detailed, namely, the ulcerations which are left after, or succeed to, the healing of primary venereal ulcers, and in which I have seen the "moist mercurial vapour" succeed after the failure of other modes of treatment pursued for long periods without success.

Case 13.

Superficial primary sores—Secondary disease of the skin under the form of shining, red, copper-coloured patches—Subsequently a large induration as hard as cartilage, occupying the site of the original ulcers.

Symptoms. A gentleman contracted some superficial sores upon the penis, which he was assured were not venereal, and would not be followed by constitutional symptoms. They healed, and the patient went abroad. On getting up one morning he perceived his skin covered with red shining patches; being alarmed, he immediately set off for London, where he was told the eruption was venereal, particularly as there accompanied it an ulcer on each tonsil. He was put upon a mercurial course, and the eruption, after a time, got well. About this time an induration made its appearance in the situation of the original ulcers, and kept increasing till it was as large as a small walnut. Notwithstanding the continuance of the mercury by the mouth, the induration remained stationary, and at this period the patient placed

himself under my care. There was a large induration, having the appearance and feeling of cartilage, occupying the place of the original sore. It did not seem a general thickening of parts, but like a piece of cartilage in and under the skin. Mercury under two or three forms had failed to remove this. Case 13.

I placed my patient under the use of the vapour-bath, which was applied three times a week for a month, half an hour each time. He drank a little warm decoction of guaiacum twice a day, and occasionally took an aperient. A month's treatment was sufficient to remove the induration, and no other symptom of syphilis remained when the employment of the baths was discontinued. There has been no relapse, a very common circumstance with indurations of this character, which I have known frequently return after the discontinuance of mercurial treatments by the mouth. Treatment.

The indurations which remain after the healing of ulcers of suspicious character, or which come on after they have healed, as Observations.

Case 13. they often do, are among the most obstinate symptoms with which surgeons have to contend. In themselves they are a sure indication of constitutional taint, and are either, if left to themselves, followed by secondary diseases of a formidable character, or ulcerating from slight causes of irritation give place to rapidly-spreading and destructive sores; they are exceedingly rebellious, and sometimes remain after the pursuance of various forms of constitutional treatment for long periods. Local treatment by frictions soon renders them painful, and disposes them to open. In these forms of disease the mercurial vapour is very valuable, though it does not act with the rapidity it generally does in affections of the skin, throat, or nose.

Case 14.

Regular primary sore on the frænum, mercurial treatment: copper-coloured scaly eruption on the back, superficial ulceration of the tonsils, ulceration of the mucous membrane of the nose, discharge of pus, blood, and thick crusts, pains in the hip and shin-bones — Second mercurial treatment — Failure of success—Speedy cure by the Baths.

Symptoms.

A gentleman contracted a sore on the frænum, which healed under a prolonged mercurial course, during which he took a hundred five-grain mercurial pills. He fancied himself well. Three months afterwards a copper-coloured scaly eruption appeared on the back, the tonsils became enlarged, and their surface was ulcerated; he had a discharge of quantities of hard mucus from the back of the throat, which appeared to come from the nose, and the nostrils also gave passage to substances of the same character, mixed with matter and blood. His nights became bad, and he was tormented with severe pains in the hips and legs, which prevented him from sleeping. For these symptoms

Case 14. a second surgeon was consulted, who recommended a blue pill three times a day, and some other medicines. The mouth was kept sore for three months, during which period the patient took one hundred and forty more pills. Under this treatment the eruption on the back disappeared, but the other symptoms in the nose and throat were worse, and the pains in the hips and legs increased in intensity.

This patient now came to me from a distance, and placed himself under my care. At this period the tonsils were large, and on each side covered with ash-coloured superficial ulcerations, the mucous membrane of the nostrils was intensely red, and covered also with ash-coloured spots. There no doubt existed mischief higher up in the nose, as the voice was thick, and the breathing through the nose obstructed. The patient had now suffered from disease and remedy for seven months. He was pale and emaciated, and much depressed in spirits.

Treatment. I placed him under the use of the baths, gave him small doses of the extract of opium, and recommended him to drink half a pint of warm

decoction of guaiacum, night and morning. The nose and throat were better after the first bath; and at the end of five weeks, the baths having been taken every other day, this gentleman had no symptom of disease remaining, had lost his pains, and recovered his strength and spirits. CASE 14.

This case is one of the many that might be recorded as an instance of the failure of mercury, given by the mouth in the ordinary way, to cure venereal diseases. The failure is perhaps not so much in the remedy itself as in the mode in which it is administered. The quantity given is generally too large, and the patient is not placed in circumstances whilst taking it which are favorable to its action; and a peculiar class of diseases are, by such treatment, created, which are compounded of mercury and syphilis, and which are very difficult to cure. These diseases are generally produced by the indiscriminate use of mercury in the treatment of the primary sore. If mercury be required for the treatment of the primary sore, I never recommend more than two

Frequent failure of ordinary mercurial treatments, and why.

Case 14. grains of blue pill night and morning, and the baths every other day. Primary ulcers so treated are never followed by induration; salivation or ulceration of the mouth are never produced; and secondary symptoms would not occur in one case in five hundred.

Case 15.

Superficial ulceration of the throat and nose—Alteration of the voice—Relapses under internal mercurial treatment for four months—Speedy cure by the Baths.

Symptoms. A gentleman contracted several superficial sores on the penis, which were attended with considerable inflammation. They healed without induration of the cicatrix, but as the patient had not been seen by me at this period, I do not know what treatment was adopted. About two months after this apparent cure, his throat became dry, particularly the day after any extra indulgence, such as a dinner party. To this succeeded ulceration, several small ash-coloured spots making their appearance on each tonsil; the nose became dry and uncom-

fortable; he could not breath through it easily, it appeared obstructed, and the voice was hoarse and unpleasant. The hair came off in small quantities, and the skin was continually disposed to crack and inflame on the seat of the original sores. This patient had taken mercury internally, at intervals, for six months, but, on discontinuing the remedy, his symptoms always returned; and, in addition, the medicine, under any form, after a time, so disordered his stomach that he could not take it long enough to have any real influence over his disease. No other treatment was adopted in this case except the baths: they were used every other day for three weeks; the head was immersed at intervals during the time the patient remained in the bath, a practice which ought always to be followed where the hair comes off, and in diseases of the throat and nose. The gums were elevated, swollen, and red, but nothing more. The cure was complete. In six months there has not been the slightest relapse. Case 15.

Case 16.

Pustular skin disease—Induration of the glands in the groin on the left side to a great extent—Ulcer and induration on the penis—Severe pains in the head and legs—Tenderness of the bones of the legs—Failure of internal mereurial treatment pursued for four months—Cure by the Baths and opium.

Symptoms. A gentleman entered my consultation-room one morning, looking pale and emaciated, and walking with a stick and a crutch. He gave the following history of his disease. Ten months previously he had contracted a sore, which was situated on the lower part of the glans penis, near the frænum. For the cure of this, the primary, or for the prevention of constitutional or secondary disease, he had taken mercury by the mouth to some extent, and for a long period. Whilst taking this medicine about fifty or sixty small pustules broke out in different parts of the body, chiefly on the arms, legs, and head. His throat about this period became sore, and he had continual discharge from his nose. For these symptoms he was recommended mercury internally in

another form. The throat improved, but did not get quite well; some of the pustules also dried up, and disappeared, but were succeeded by others. The general health, previously good, now began to fail, the appetite went, the patient got thin and suffered from night sweats; he was also tormented during the night with severe pains in the legs and head, those in the ankles and hips at length became so severe that he could not walk without the assistance of a stick and a crutch, and yet, ten months previously, the patient had been in good health, and was only now thirty-two years of age. Case 16.

On examination, I found a small fissure near the frænum surrounded by considerable induration; the glands in the left groin were enlarged, hard, and tender, the whole mass as large as a turkey's egg. The throat was red, and covered with four or five superficial, ill-conditioned ulcers; the nostrils were in the same state; on both sides there were ulcers; the voice was hoarse, and there was constantly expectorated a quantity of thick, adhesive phlegm. There were from twenty to thirty

Case 16. fresh pustules, of small size, on different parts of the body. The general health was broken up; the appetite was bad; there was no rest; the tongue was foul; the gums spongy; and the breath fetid. This patient was very much emaciated, and the perspirations in the night were most profuse, bed and body linen being completely saturated.

I looked with considerable anxiety on this case; the local symptoms, bad as they were, I did not fear; these were easily and certainly manageable, but the general health of this poor gentleman was so much impaired that I feared for the result. He was doubly poisoned, first by syphilis, and secondly by mercury, very probably acting upon a system peculiarly inimical to the use of it, as the general state of health showed, for I never saw such symptoms produced by syphilis where mercury had not been given for its cure.

Treatment. I ordered this patient to keep his room, and prescribed for him a strong decoction of sarsaparilla, with beef-tea, and recommended him to take, in addition, seven grains of powdered

guaiacum, two of opium, and three of camphor, night and morning. The baths were sent to his lodgings, and he took one on the third day after I first saw him. The bath produced some exhaustion, but he slept well that night without perspiration, and the next day was better. On the third day, again, the bath was repeated with still further improvement; the pustules began to dry up, and the strength was a little improved. Still the appetite continued bad, and the tongue foul; the pains in the limbs still troublesome, though abated. The baths were repeated every third day, and the medicines were continued. No alteration was made in the treatment; as the patient gained strength the baths were made stronger, and continued for a longer period. This patient remained under my care two months, at the end of which period he left me in tolerable health, which has continued to improve. He has had no relapse. Case 16.

I do not think it would have been possible to have cured this patient without the moist mercurial vapour. The combination of the

Case 16. vapour-bath and the mercurial fume is in such cases invaluable; and wherever the patient is able to support himself on a chair, they may be used with perfect safety, and without risk. The strength and heat of the bath being regulated according to the particular circumstances of the case.

Remarks on ulcerations of the throat and windpipe.

It is in such states that ulcerations, generally fatal under ordinary treatments, occur in the larynx, and low down in the pharynx. I have seen, in the earlier years of my practice, several patients die from these ulcerations, whom I firmly believe would have been saved under the plan I now recommend. Where ulcerations are constitutional local remedies have little influence over them, except for the moment. Mercury given internally is in such cases almost altogether forbidden by the condition of the general health of the patient. Under the plan I here recommend it may be administered in perfect safety, and is almost the only hope for the patient.

Case 17.

Discharge from the urethra, and excoriations for primary symptoms—Subsequently spots on the body—Loss of hair and voice—Ulceration of the throat and nose —Speedy cure by the Baths, after a prolonged mercurial treatment with partial success.

A gentleman contracted from the same connection a discharge from the urethra, and superficial sores upon the penis, which healed in a few weeks with very simple treatment. Sometime afterwards he experienced a dryness and soreness in the throat when he swallowed, and his voice became hoarse; these symptoms increased till at length the voice was almost altogether lost, and he merely spoke in a whisper. He consulted a surgeon, who pronounced the disease in the throat to be syphilitic, and recommended mercury to be taken by the mouth, with the decoction of sarsaparilla. These medicines were continued for some time with partial benefit; but, on their discontinuance, the disease in the throat became worse, whilst the voice had hardly been benefited at all. The Symptoms.

Case 17. patient now, by the advice of his surgeon, who resided at a distance, placed himself under my care.

At this period the whole of the throat had a deep red appearance, the tonsils were much enlarged and tender externally, and their surface covered with superficial ash-coloured ulcers, one or two of these ulcers on each side being deeper than the rest. The uvula was elongated, thickened, and had a tubcrose appearance; on its extremity were situated two or three small ulcers similar to those on the tonsils; there was a difficulty of breathing through the nose, the mucous membrane of which was intensely red, and superficially ulcerated. There were a few small pustules on the body, and one or two on the head; the hair was thinning fast. The general health was good.

Treatment. This patient took the baths every other day with the head immersed; he was directed to take also some decoction of guaiacum night and morning; the dose in the evening warm on getting into bed; the gums became very tender after the fifth bath, and his condition was much amended by this time;

the spots had disappeared from the skin, and the hair no longer came off; the redness was gone from the throat, and the voice was much improved. At the end of three weeks nearly all the symptoms had vanished. The patient still remained a little hoarse, and the uvula had not quite assumed its natural appearance. I heard from this gentleman, a month afterwards, to say he was quite well. CASE 17.

This is another example of that numerous class of constitutional venereal diseases which follow superficial primary sores; the most marked symptoms of which are superficial redness and ulceration of the throat and nose, with spots upon the skin varying in their pathological characters, and loss of hair. These symptoms are so constantly grouped together in such cases that I never see one, without looking for the others. I believe where the hair comes off, and the disease of the skin affects its surface only, the mucous membrane of the nose will be found always affected, as well as the throat. These symptoms generally yield with extraordinary rapidity to the use of

Remarks on the secondary diseases following superficial primary sores.

Case 17. the moist mercurial vapour, whether this be associated with medicines taken internally or not. In some cases the cure has been expedited by the decoction of sarsaparilla and guaiacum, but I never prescribe mercury internally in such cases, if the patient can take the baths.

Case 18.

Chronic ulceration of the throat and nose—Failure of various internal mercurial treatments pursued at intervals for nine months—Speedy cure by the Vapour.

Symptoms. A surgeon called on me one day, with a patient, suffering from an irregular superficial ulceration of the throat, and redness, with superficial ulceration of the nose. He had tried various plans with him for some time, but the disease had constantly relapsed when medicine was discontinued.

Treatment. I advised him to leave off mercurial medicines altogether, to take small doses of opium and guaiacum at bed-time, and directed him to use the vapour. Some weeks after I met this gentleman, who told me the plan had been quite successful.

Case 19.

Ulceration of the throat—Large single pustular blotches on different parts of the body at different times—Ulcer of the left nostril.

A respectable female was unfortunately diseased by her husband; I know no more of the primary disease, than that she had a discharge upon her, and some superficial sores which soon healed. Her husband and herself had both afterwards ulceration of the throat, which was very rebellious to treatment, but at length healed under a mercurial course. Some months afterwards a large pustule made its appearance on the thigh, and on the arm: these soon dried up, and were covered with large, irregular, black-looking crusts, which, on falling off, left a foul, excavated ulcer beneath. These, after some time healed, leaving a deep red depression in the skin. At a subsequent period the left nostril became dry, and rather painful; and, on examination, there was found an ulcer as large as a shilling, covered with a white, Symptoms.

Case 19. thiek slough ; the remainder of the membrane of the nostril was of a deep, dark-red eolour, which eolour pervaded also the other nostril, but the latter was not ulcerated. The uleeration was spreading rapidly, and, the patient believed, had only been in existenee about two days. When I first saw this uleer it only affected the mucous membrane, but its edges were so intensely red, and disease proeeeding with so mueh rapidity that I apprehended speedy perforation of the eartilage, having more than onee seen the soft palate eaten through by an uleer of this kind in twenty-four hours. I mentioned my fears to my patient, and told her I knew of but one method of speedily, if not immediately, arresting her disease, supposing her ease should be as fortunate as some others I had seen submitted to a similar plan of treatment ; and this was by means of the moist mereurial vapour, which I advised her instantly to use.

Treatment. The head was immersed in the bath ; and the patient was kept in it for half an hour. The vapour produced, as it sometimes does, a

great discharge from the nose. On the next day the redness of the nose was less. The bath was again repeated on this day in the same manner, and for the same time. On the third day the slough had separated; there was very little redness of the nose, and the ulcer looked healthy and disposed to heal. The baths were now continued every other day, and by the time the eighth had been taken the ulcer had healed, and very little complaint remained. Indeed all that could be said was that the membrane of the nostrils was slightly more red than it ought to be in a perfectly healthy state. This patient did not take any medicine during the time she was using the vapour; the gums became very tender after the fourth bath. She was directed to live on beef-tea, milk, eggs, and cocoa, and her general health, which was before bad, became good; she got fat, and has not relapsed. CASE 19.

Case 20.

Primary sores treated by an internal mercurial course—Afterwards, violent pains in the head, spots on the skin, ulceration of the nose.

Symptoms. A gentleman contracted a sore on the penis, for the cure of which he was directed to take mercury internally; this was done to some extent, and after a time the sore healed, leaving a thickened condition of the prepuce upon which it was situated. Before the termination of the mercurial course he began to suffer from violent pains in the head, which were at times so severe as to induce delirium. The mercury was now given up, the pains became less, but did not leave him, and in addition the hips and legs were affected with similar pains; the nose became dry, and discharged from time to time hard, foul crusts, and there were also a few scaly blotches on different parts of the skin.

Treatment. The patient now placed himself under my care, and I recommended to him the use of the moist mercurial vapour, and prescribed for him some small doses of opium, and a de-

coction of the woods to be drank warm in bed night and morning. At this period there was superficial ulceration in each nostril, and the membrane generally was intensely red. The patient was in an agony of distress about his nose, fancying it would fall in, in spite of all my assurances that there was neither disease of the cartilages or bones. His monomania was most distressing, it rendered his life miserable. After a few weeks treatment the symptoms yielded, the pains were gone, and the ulceration of the nose had healed, though it still remained red, and, occasionally, discharged a lump of hard mucus. This gentleman had no confidence in any treatment except the baths; and, on two occasions, fancying himself worse, travelled from the north of Scotland to have them administered under my care. In about three months from the time of my first seeing this patient he was perfectly well, did not present a trace of venereal taint, and his mind had become more tranquil; he had confidence in the permanence of his cure, and felt satisfied that his nose was no longer in danger.

Case 20.

Case 21.

Chronic disease of the throat, and loss of hair—Failure of ordinary treatments—Cure by the Baths.

Symptoms. A commercial gentleman, aged 34, was sent to me by his surgeon, for my opinion respecting his throat, which had been affected with syphilitic ulceration for several months, and had resisted the ordinary means of cure, or relapsed when medicines were discontinued. This patient had suffered originally from several small superficial sores on the penis. Some time after the healing of which his throat became dry and inflamed, and his hair began to come off. When I first saw this gentleman the throat was intensely red, the tonsils enlarged, and their surface covered with several ash-coloured ulcers; the membrane of the nostrils was also very red, and he could not breathe easily through them; his sense of smell was much impaired, and he had entirely lost his hair, and was obliged to wear a wig. I could not learn the exact mode of treatment that had

been employed; but his mouth had been made sore two or three times by mercury. Case 21.

He was directed to use the baths every other day, and to take very small doses of the bichloride of mercury, not exceeding the twelfth of a grain for a dose, with some decoction of guaiacum, and an opiate at night. The plan was pursued for a month; at the end of this period the throat was well, and he has never again relapsed. Treatment.

It is a singular fact, and one which I have verified in some hundreds of cases, that the same medicines which have been *unsuccessful*, before the use of the baths, will speedily act beneficially when employed in conjunction with them, though given in very much smaller doses, and the treatment which has been followed by repeated relapses, without the baths, becomes permanently efficacious when employed with them. Remarks.

Case 22.

Superficial primary sores—Inflammation, and enlargement of the glands in the left groin—Mercurial frictions, &c., without success—Cure by mercurial frictions and the Baths.

Symptoms. A gentleman consulted me respecting some abrasions on the penis, which he had perceived after a suspicious intercourse. They quickly healed; but after a hard day's hunting he perceived a tenderness in the left groin, and the next day walked with difficulty. Being at that time in the north of England he consulted a surgeon who told him he was suffering from bubo, and a mercurial course was necessary. He took mercury by the mouth, and rubbed in some mercurial ointment into the thighs till the mouth was sore. The glands in the groin continued to enlarge, and it appeared probable they would suppurate. Getting alarmed about his state he now placed himself under my care.

At this period he could not walk, the mass of inflamed glands was as large as a turkey's

egg, red at the summit, exceedingly painful and tender, and from a feeling of fluctuation given to the finger it appeared probable that matter had already formed. I had, however, so repeatedly seen surgeons deceived as to the presence of matter in cases like the present, and protracted diseases produced by incisions, that I abstained from making a puncture in this case, and believe that the lancet in all cases of this description should be used with extreme caution. The patient was much emaciated, and worn out by pain, want of rest, and night perspirations. Case 22.

I applied a blister over the bubo, gave him an opiate at bedtime, and, after two or three days' rest, recommended that he should commence the use of the baths every other day, and rub in every night half a scruple of mercurial ointment. This patient left me well in five weeks. He had pursued mercurial treatment for three months previously, without the slightest benefit, not the least impression had been made upon his disease. This gentleman has remained perfectly well; it is fifteen Treatment.

Case 22. months since he was under my care, and he has had no relapse of any kind.

Remarks. It is remarkable what small quantities of mercury are required internally to combat very formidable diseases, when this remedy is given in conjunction with the baths. Mercurial treatments so conducted are never attended with mischief; and salivation or ulceration of the mouth are never produced, at least with the most ordinary care, whilst the disease as certainly yields.

I will now detail another case where mercury had been taken at intervals for five months for an induration succeeding to the healing of a venereal sore, whilst the patient got well, placed under the same circumstances when he used similar remedies, and took the baths in conjunction with them.

Case 23.

Superficial primary sores succeeded by an extensive induration, spots on the skin, node on the arm—Relapse, after an apparent cure, by internal treatment alone—Permanent cure by the Baths.

A gentleman contracted three or four superficial sores, which quickly healed, but soon after there appeared on the substance of the prepuce an induration which surrounded the upper portion of the penis. Under the advice of his surgeon he took mercury internally, and also used it by friction; and, under this treatment, continued for three months; the induration disappeared. About a fortnight after the discontinuance of the medicines, the induration began to reappear, and in a few days was larger, and harder than before. The patient now recommenced the use of medicines, but after having taken them nearly four months, the induration still remained the same, and the periosteum of the ulna of the left arm became inflamed, and a few scaly spots made their appearance on different parts of the body. Symptoms.

Case 23. The patient, at this period, came under my care; the induration, the principal feature of the disease was like a piece of cartilage under the skin; but the whole of the upper portion of the prepuce was full and red; and the induration was tender to the touch.

Treatment. I recommended the baths every other day, and advised the medicines to be continued, which consisted in a solution of the bichloride of mercury in the decoction of sarsaparilla. The spots soon disappeared, and were seen no more; the tenderness of the arm next yielded; the induration was longer in giving way, after the third bath, however, it was manifestly softer and less tender, but had not entirely disappeared for ten weeks, the treatment having been from time to time interrupted by the business avocations of the patient.

Remarks. I do not believe it would have been possible to have cured this patient by internal medicines alone. He had continued them for three months in the first instance before the induration yielded; and it was clear that the constitutional taint still remained, by the return of

disease, the moment the remedies were sus- Case 23.
pended, with the addition of fresh symptoms.

In the second instance the internal remedies were of no avail, although continued for nearly four months. Yet the disease yielded in ten weeks when the baths were used, and the same medicines were taken with them. There has been no relapse after the second treatment, and the cure has been perfect.

Case 24.

Constitutional syphilis of two years' duration: Enlargement of the left testis—Nocturnal pains—Night perspirations — Emaciation — Thickening of the bones of the nose on the left side—Ulcer of the septum of the nose, and obstruction of the naso-lachrymal canal—Failure of ordinary treatments pursued for two years—Cure by the Vapour in four months, with the exception of one symptom.

A delicate-looking young man came from Symptoms.
Shropshire, in September 1847, to request my opinion respecting the symptoms under which he laboured, which had harassed him with little variation, for the last two years. Latterly he had become worse, and the complaint in his

Case 24. nose rendered him very anxious, more especially as his surgeon had given him a very unfavorable opinion with regard to its termination.

About two years and a half ago he had contracted superficial sores upon the penis, which had healed under ordinary treatment, and for which he had taken mercury by the mouth, though I could not learn to what extent. About two years ago he observed a continual discharge from his nose, and this was sometimes mixed with matter, and occasionally with blood; at intervals of two or three days or a week, there came from the nose hard crusts of dry mucus, bearing the shape of the spongy bones of the nose, and having on the surface which had been adherent, spots of pus as though they had been thrown off from an ulcerated surface. These symptoms were chiefly confined to the left nostril, and the bones of the nose on this side were considerably larger than those on the right, and tender to the touch. After these symptoms had continued for some months the eye on the same

side began to water, and the tears from time to time flowed over the cheek. On pressing the lachrymal sac, the tears, with occasionally a few drops of pus, could be pressed out through the puncta. About this period the bones of the legs became very painful, particularly at night when in bed; and the left testicle began to enlarge without pain; night perspirations set in, the appetite was lost, and the general health became altogether impaired and bad. Case 21.

At this time the patient came under my care. He was then pale and emaciated; on examination of the nose I discovered a dirty-looking superficial ulcer of the septum, and of the inferior turbinated bone on the left side, the membrane of the nostrils on both sides was intensely red, the patient spoke thick, and was at times hoarse, doubtless resulting from the condition of the nose. The bones of the nose and cheek, on the left side, were enlarged, tender to the touch, and the skin was slightly red over these parts. The throat was dry and uncomfortable occasionally, though neither inflamed nor ulcerated.

Treatment. I directed this patient to use the vapour, with the head immersed, to continue it for half an hour, using three drachms of the bin-oxide of mercury for each bath, which was taken two days together, and then omitted for one.

At the same time I recommended ten grains of the compound powder of ipecacuanha, with as much guaiacum, to be taken night and morning, and twice in the day a glass of warm decoction of sarsaparilla, with five grains of the hydriodate of potass, and twenty minims of the wine of colchicum.

At the end of a fortnight the improvement was very marked; the pains were gone, the perspiration had ceased; the patient could eat, and the swelling of the testicle was nearly reduced. The tenderness had disappeared from the bones of the nose, and the fulness was much less. There remained, however, still some discharge from the nose, and the tears still ran over the cheek.

The treatment was continued at intervals for three months; and, at the end of this time,

the patient appeared in very good health; he had not a symptom of constitutional taint, unless the partial obstruction of the nasal duct, still remaining, was to be considered as such; and this canal was evidently assuming, though slowly, its natural condition.* Case 24.

I have already stated that an inflamed and ulcerated condition of the mucous membrane of the passages of the nose is a very common symptom of constitutional syphilitic taint; and I have seen a number of cases where it has continued for a very long period of time without extending further than the mucous membrane lining the nose, though in other instances its advances are more rapid, and its consequences more serious. In some instances syphilitic affections of the nose are limited to a mere chronic inflammation of the membrane lining the meati, and are accompanied by discharges of thickened, dry, mucous crusts, having the shape and appearance of the bones themselves; and this I have known continue for many years, Observations on syphilitic diseases of the passage of the nose.

* The naso-lachrymal duct ultimately recovered its natural condition, and became pervious.

Case 24. without getting much worse. On examining the nostrils of such patients they are found to be intensely red, covered with mucous crusts, and the membrane in places slightly ulcerated. The previous history of the patient, the co-existence of some other symptom of venereal taint, and the effects of appropriate treatment, leave no doubt as to the nature of such diseases. In other instances more serious forms of ulceration are present, and these ulcers assume either a chronic or an acute character. I have seen two instances, in one of which there had been a constitutional taint for six years; and, in the other, for nine; and the nostrils affected the whole period, where an acute ulcer has perforated the septum in a few days.

Of the nasal duct.

In some rarer cases the chronic inflammation of the nose is not limited to the meati, but extends from the inferior one up the nasal duct, and partially or completely obliterates it. I have seen three cases of this kind, one which had existed several years; and the discharge of tears over the cheek coincided with

that of the peculiar syphilitic crust from the nose, on the side on which the obliteration of the duct existed. This is a probable, and, I believe, a common cause of that disease, known as "stillicidium lachrymarum." Case 24.

Case 25.

Superficial primary sore, followed by bubo—Ordinary treatment—Constitutional taint five months afterwards in the shape of copper-coloured blotches on the face, head, and back, with loss of hair, and superficial disease of the throat—The disease stationary under ordinary treatment for six months—Cure by the Vapour in nine weeks.

A gentleman contracted, in February 1847, a superficial sore, which was succeeded by a bubo which did not suppurate; the patient was treated in the ordinary manner, and he fancied for three or four months that he was quite well. In June of the same year he had superficial ulceration of the throat, and about the same time he perceived a large copper-coloured, or dark-brown spot on the forehead, just above the root of the nose; another soon appeared Symptoms.

Case 25. on the side of the nose, one on the right cheek, and several of smaller character on different parts of the face, neck, head, and back. The hair at this time came off in large quantities, when brushed or combed, and soon became very thin. These spots were neither preceded, accompanied, or followed by inflammation, ulceration, or desquamation of the skin, and they are to be distinguished from that kind of discoloration of a venereal character, which is seated in the cicatrix of a constitutional ulcer of the skin, after it has healed, which cicatrix is always depressed in the substance of the skin itself, and of which I have already related one or two examples.

From June to September this patient underwent various kinds of treatment for the spots, which continued stationary, or rather increased during this period; and early in October he placed himself under my care. At this time the spots were dark brown discolorations, nearly circular, unaccompanied by pain, uneasiness, or inflammation of any kind, and did not disappear under pressure. He had

evidently been submitted to a mercurial course, as there were two or three ulcers in the mouth; the gums were spongy, and bled from the slightest friction, and there was strong mercurial fetor of the breath. Case 25.

I directed this gentleman to use the vapour twice a week, with half an ounce of the bisulphuret for each fumigation. He also took a tumbler of the compound decoction of guaiacum twice a day, with two drops of the liquor potassæ arsenitis. The treatment was not varied; at the end of nine weeks the spots could not be perceived, and the general health had much improved. Treatment.

This is a very rare form of constitutional venereal taint, and is to be distinguished from all other varieties of syphilitic disease by the skin. Cazenave * corroborates from his experience the rarity of its occurrence, and mentions cases in which it has been confounded with other cutaneous affections. These copper discolorations, however, of venereal origin, due to an altered condition of the pigment of Remarks on venereal spots.

* Maladies Vénériennes de la Peau, p. 575, et seq.

Case 25. the skin, almost invariably coexist with other symptoms, whose nature is more unequivocal. In the case just detailed, the previous history, the condition of the throat, and the loss of hair leave no doubt as to the true nature of the disease. Syphilitic alterations in the colour of the skin (maculæ syphiliticæ) are rarely, if ever, ushered in, or accompanied, by that febrile action, which is common at the commencement of the ordinary venereal eruptions; they are not accompanied by any other alteration of the skin beyond change of colour; there is neither inflammation, ulceration, nor desquamation.

Difficulty of cure by ordinary treatments.

These rare forms of disease are slow in their progress, and rebellious to all ordinary treatments; indeed it is rare to find them cured at all under such circumstances. Cazenave quotes a case of this nature from Biett's practice, in which the patient's health was entirely destroyed by the means adopted to remove them, which, even in the hands of men of such ample experience, was unsuccessful. The case I have just detailed, of even aggravated form,

for the spots on the face and back were as distinct and deep as though they had been painted on the skin, and completely banished the patient from society, was cured by the vapour in nine weeks, after five months' treatment by the ordinary remedies, during which time the spots rather increased than diminished, and the health was beginning to fail under the remedies employed. Case 25.

Other forms of "maculæ," or discolorations are less vivid, and do not even always attract the patient's attention, though they render some others very uneasy. It is common, during treatment for other venereal symptoms, to find on undressing the patient, the surface of the abdomen, chest, or thighs, covered with light, copper-coloured blotches, which are precisely of the same nature as those which I have just described. If the treatment by the vapour is being followed they commonly, if not always, yield to it, though sometimes very slowly; but ordinary treatments, though pursued for months, appear to have little or no influence over them. Other forms of venereal spots.

Case 26.

Constitutional syphilis of ten years' duration: Periodical attacks of disease in the throat—Affections of the nose and testis—At the end of nine years an acute attack of disease in the throat, with speedy perforation of the soft palate—Failure of mercurial and iodine treatments conducted in the ordinary manner—Speedy and remarkable improvement of all the symptoms, and disappearance of many of them under treatment by the Vapour.

Symptoms. Mr. C——, a farmer from Staffordshire, aged 23, consulted me, when passing through Birmingham in 1840, for a slight eruption and sore throat, which were both of syphilitic origin; he had had primary sores some months previously, for which he had taken mercury to salivation. I neither saw nor heard from this patient for nine years; but, early in 1849, he again came to me. He stated that he had never been well since he first saw me; that from time to time he had had attacks of inflammation, and ulceration of the throat, which had yielded to medicine, (the hydriodate of potass,) but had always recurred after the

medicine had been discontinued for a little time. Case 26.
He had suffered also from discharges of hard, thick crusts from the nose; the nasal duct had been obstructed, and the operation for its restoration had been attempted and failed, and the patient suffered, consequently, from lachrymal fistula. He had enlargement and induration of the left testis (syphilitic sarcocele), he was pale, emaciated, and weak, and suffered from profuse night sweats.

Such had been the condition of the patient during the nine years which had elapsed between his first and second visits to me. The immediate cause of the second consultation was the state of the throat. Four days only previous to this visit he began to suffer from pain in the roof of the mouth, which was much inflamed; and, on the second morning after these symptoms had been first observed, he discovered a large hole in the roof of the mouth. The whole of the roof of the mouth and soft palate were at this period intensely and lividly red; and at the junction of the soft with the hard palate there existed an ulcer of the size of a sixpence, which

Case 26. had perforated the velum, and through which the nasal mucus flowed, as it was close under the posterior nares; the ulcer was rapidly spreading, and threatened destruction to the whole of the contiguous parts. The throat and fauces presented no trace of inflammation.

Treatment. Encouraged by the success which had attended the use of the fumigation in two other cases (Nos. 3, 6,) I immediately proposed it to my patient, who was immersed in a powerful bath for half an hour, for which was used two drachms of the binoxide, and two drachms of the bisulphuret of mercury. On the next day the pain was gone, the ulcer had not extended, and the inflammation was certainly less. On the second and third days the baths were repeated in the same manner, and of the same strength. The mouth had now become so sore that they could not be continued, although neither salivation nor ulceration was produced, merely an even redness and swelling of the gums.

The patient was directed to take twenty drops of Battley's solution of opium three

times a day, with plenty of sarsaparilla broth *. Case 26.

At the end of a fortnight the testis had recovered its natural state; the inflammation in the mouth had entirely disappeared, and the ulcer was granulating and contracting fast; the mouth still continued sore.

At the end of two months, this patient did not present any symptom of constitutional taint, the perforation in the palate remained; though it had much contracted, and did not occasion much inconvenience. There has been no fresh symptom for ten months.

This case is remarkable, and instructive in many points, and forcibly illustrates certain laws in the history of secondary Syphilis. It shows, in the first place, that acute and mutilating diseases not unfrequently occur in constitutions broken down by long-continued venereal taint. It shows again that the condition of the nose, and the nature of the dis- Observations.

* Decoct. Sarsæ. co., lb. ss.
Carnis bovis, lb. ss.
Coque simul super lento igne ad dimidium.
Dose. Ad libitum.

Case 26. charges from it, are very frequently the chief symptoms that mark a latent venereal taint; this is a point which I have before had occasion to allude to; and it is one of very considerable importance. The treatment of this case, as of No. 6, illustrates the power of the moist mercurial fume in arresting formidable diseases of this nature, and arresting them so quickly, so certainly, and so safely. I do believe that no other plan of treatment could have been framed which would have saved the whole of the roof of the mouth from horrible mutilation.

This ulcer was evidently of nasal origin, and the velum had been perforated from behind; it had not been preceded by any ulceration in the throat, or on the fore part of the velum; and the first knowledge the patient had of the existence of the ulcer, was, the sight of the perforation in the palate. I repeat, that in all cases of secondary Syphilis the passages of the nose should be carefully examined, as they furnish some of the best tests we can have of the existence of a latent constitutional taint.

Case 27.

Constitutional syphilis of three years' duration: Discharge of crusts from the nose, with ulceration—Great wasting of the body, with hoarseness, difficulty of swallowing, and pain in the larynx—Local employment of the vapour of the binoxide of mercury—Cure.

E. F——, aged 36, was admitted into the Queen's Hospital, under my care, early in 1849. She had been the subject of secondary and constitutional Syphilis for about three years, during which time she had undergone a great variety of treatment. She was, at the period of her admission, much emaciated, had night perspirations, and could only speak in a whisper. She had superficial ulceration of the septum of the nose; the whole lining membrane of which was vividly red, with daily discharges of the characteristic crusts. Her chief complaint, however, was of pain deeply seated in the throat and neck; and the larynx was very tender when handled or pressed. Symptoms.

I suspected that she had syphilitic ulceration of the windpipe.

Case 27. Treatment.

By means of an apparatus, easily contrived, a stream of the vapour, made with half a drachm of the binoxide of mercury for each fume, was directed into the fauces and up the nostrils every morning. After four or five inhalations the mouth became sore, and the remedy was used less frequently.

The symptoms entirely disappeared under this treatment; and, three months afterwards, when the patient called on me, she had recovered her health and strength, and appeared perfectly well.

Observations on the local employment of the vapour.

I have, in many instances, employed the vapour of the binoxide, the iodide, and the gray oxide of mercury locally, in many anomalous symptoms, which were consequent upon protracted and constitutional Syphilis, and which did not appear to require the general application of such remedies. These diseases have been fissures and cracks in the tongue, pains in the throat, fauces, and larynx, which had previously been the seat of ulceration, fissures of the anus, cracks about the lips, &c. One of these cases I have just detailed, and

I could bring forward a very considerable number, in almost all of which one remedy or the other has been perfectly successful. In cases where it is wished to employ the vapour of mercury locally to affections of the tongue, throat, or nose, it is better to use the binoxide, the gray oxide, or the iodide, as the vapour of the bisulphuret produces so much sneezing and coughing, that some persons are unable to bear the application long enough to be useful. Case 27.

Case 28.

Constitutional syphilis of four years' duration: Treatment by the Vapour—Uneasiness and pain in the throat still recurring at times—Local application of the vapour of the binoxide of mercury—Disappearance of the symptoms—No relapse.

A commercial traveller placed himself under my care to be treated for secondary and constitutional Syphilis, from which he had suffered for nearly four years.

The symptoms consisted in superficial ulceration of the throat, pains in the bones of the nose, with superficial ulceration of its mucous membrane, and discharge of pus, blood, and Symptoms.

Case 28. mucous crusts, with some suspicious spots on the skin, and a general cachectic condition, the result probably of large quantities of mercury which he had taken for the cure of the primary disease.

Treatment. He was treated by the moist vapour of the bisulphuret, and binoxide of mercury. In about ten weeks he had perfectly recovered; and at the end of three months had become very florid, and got very fat. There remained, however, some uneasiness in the throat, and from time to time a blush of redness spread over the pharynx and fauces, accompanied by dryness, and slight pain when he swallowed. These symptoms rendered him uneasy, but as they did not appear to me sufficiently important to condemn him a second time to a full course of treatment, I directed half a drachm of the vapour of the binoxide of mercury to be directed into the throat three times a week. Each application gave him great relief; at the end of three weeks the throat no longer troubled him, and for twelve months there has been no return of disease in any form.

Case 28. Observations.

It not unfrequently happens that a single symptom continues to annoy patients, when they do not present any appearance of a general constitutional taint, and where the treatment previously adopted has been sufficient to render the mind pretty easy on such a point. These symptoms generally consist in periodical attacks of redness, and dryness in the throat, in soreness, and occasional discharge from the nose, in fissures, and superficial ulcerations of the tongue, and the interior of the mouth; in scaly, dry blotches on the palms of the hands and soles of the feet; and in pains deeply seated in the neck and throat. In all such cases, and I could bring forward instances of every form I have mentioned; a local treatment by the vapour almost invariably succeeds in removing the symptoms which, I believe, in such cases, to be most commonly local, and where a general treatment is much more likely to do harm than good. I bring forward one or two cases in illustration.

Case 29.

Constitutional syphilis of fifteen months' duration: Removal of the symptoms under treatment by the vapour of the bisulphuret of mercury—Subsequently fissure, and red elevations upon the tongue—Treatment locally by the vapour of the iodide—Permanent and perfect cure.

Symptoms. A young gentleman, who had been suffering from secondary and constitutional syphilis for about fifteen months, came under my care in the early part of 1848. He was treated methodically by the fumigations, and took in addition some decoction of guaiacum, with the syrup of iodide of iron, as he was of a weak and delicate constitution. About two months after the disappearance of any venereal taint, a long fissure or crack came in the tongue, and four or five large, red, hard, elevations appeared, having the appearance of small strawberries; the tongue was red and painful. These symptoms appeared to me of venereal origin, although his health appeared good, and he presented no other appearance of taint.

I suggested to him the use of a local fumigation of the vapour of five grains of the iodide of mercury every other day. No other remedy was used, and in three weeks the fissure had closed, and the tongue presented its natural appearance. Case 29. Treatment.

I have seen several instances in which fissures, superficial ulcerations, or indurations; thickening, and unevenness of some part of the tongue have remained for years after the patient had been cured of all other symptoms of Syphilitic taint; and, I believe, although these are occasionally dependent upon a general affection; they are, nevertheless, in many instances local diseases only. They are almost always rendered worse by mercury given by the mouth, and probably are merely forms of chronic stomatitis, produced originally by the internal administration of this drug. It will easily be discovered whether they are symptoms of general infection, by the co-existence of some of the other symptoms, of which I have so frequently spoken. If the health be good, and such symptoms are absent, they are local Observations.

Case 29. diseases. They yield in a rapid manner to treatments by the vapour, and the cures are permanent.

Case 30.

Excavated ulcers of the throat, treatment internally by a full course of mercury—Recurrence of the disease—A second course of mercury—A third attack of ulceration—Complete and permanent cure by the vapour of the iodide of mercury.

Symptoms. S. P—— was treated by a full course of mercury internally for two deep ulcers of the throat, one situated on each tonsil, under which the ulcers healed. A short time afterwards the throat again ulcerated, and the patient was a second time submitted to a mercurial course, pushed to salivation; the ulcers again healed, but, in a short time, again broke out. The patient was, at this period, placed under my care. The health was a good deal broken by the two courses of mercury previously employed, the patient was thin and weak, and the appetite bad. I directed the patient to take the compound infusion of gentian, with dilute

nitric acid, and some of the compound extract of sarsaparilla, with two grains of the extract of opium every night. The vapour of three grains of the iodide of mercury was also directed into the throat every other day. In eighteen days the ulcers had healed, and the patient has not again relapsed. CASE 30.

This is not a solitary case; I have seen a great number exactly similar, where ulcers which had healed under mercury, internally administered, have frequently again broken out, and have at length rapidly and permanently closed under treatment by the vapour; of all local treatments to venereal ulcers of the throat, none are equal to the moist mercurial fume. Whether there be mere redness, the excavated ulcer, creeping or superficial ulcers, this is the local remedy "*par excellence.*" Observations.

Clara C——, a patient in the Queen's Hospital, had superficial ulceration, with much redness of the throat, and shining copper-coloured blotches on the head and other parts; she had been treated by a long course of the bichloride of mercury, which had cured the

Case 30. skin disease; but the ulceration of the throat, although at times disappearing, kept constantly recurring; she had also two small ulcers of the tongue. Both the ulcers of the throat and tongue healed rapidly under the use of the vapour of the iodide, and the cure was permanent.

Case 31.

Constitutional syphilis of seven years' duration: Nocturnal pains, with enlargement and tenderness of the bones of the nose, and of the bones of the left arm—Sarcocele of the left testis—Failure of the ordinary treatments—Complete cure by the Author's method in four months without relapse.

Symptoms. A dramatic artist of celebrity, who had been married for some years, and who had not had any primary venereal disease, in any shape or form, since his marriage, consulted me in the early part of 1849. He came to me as a forlorn hope, despairing of relief, as he had constantly relapsed after discontinuing the best-framed ordinary treatments, conducted by eminent surgeons, amongst whom may be mentioned the late Mr. Aston Key. When I first saw this

gentleman his chief complaint was of the left fore-arm, the bones of which were much enlarged, very painful and tender to the touch; but his sufferings were much increased during the night, when the pains were at times so excruciating as to deprive him more or less completely of rest; he had not slept one night, without pain, for seven years. The radius and ulna near the wrist were much enlarged, and were nodulated and uneven. The bones of the nose were a good deal thickened, and he had shooting pains in them. The left testis was five times the size of the right, heavy, and lobulated, but neither painful nor tender. CASE 31.

I considered this case as one of a decided venereal character; although mercury, pushed to salivation, and iodine had previously failed in affording more than a mere transient and temporary relief. Knowing the benefit which I had derived in many former cases, from the use of the baths, I held out to my patient a hope that they might be serviceable to him also.

Case 31. Treatment.

I directed him to use half an ounce of the bisulphuret of mercury, and half a drachm of the iodide of mereury for each of the first three baths, whieh were to be takcn every third day, and to take internally some small doses of the hydriodate of potass with colchieum.

After the third bath, which had slightly affeeted the mouth, the nocturnal pains had disappearcd, and the tenderness was gone from the arm; he could bear the bones pressed and handled, although previously they had been exquisitely tcnder. The treatment was continued at intcrvals for three months; sometimes the baths were takcn onee a week, at other timcs not so frcquently, the medicines also were continued. The pains never returned, and, at the end of the period I mention, the nose and testis had been long perfcctly well.

Remarks on diseases of the bones and periosteum.

This was a well-marked case of chronic syphilitic periostitis; the treatment of which, by my method, was rapid, safe, and successful. Perhaps no forms of constitutional Syphilis are more formidable than those which are seated in the periosteum and bones; and

such affections are very frequently due to exposure, neglect, or want of care during a mercurial course which has been prescribed for the cure of some form of secondary disease, but which not only frequently fails in curing it, but disposes the system to the production of new symptoms of a still more formidable character than those for which the remedies were originally prescribed. It has been said that the iodide of potassium is all but a specific for periosteal inflammation, more particularly that of syphilitic origin; it is certainly, in many cases, an excellent and efficient remedy; but there are many cases also in which it totally and completely fails; not so with the plan of treatment I am advocating: it is all but certain in its influence over such diseases, and the rapidity with which it cures is very remarkable. Case 31.

The patient, whose case I have just detailed, was so convinced of the superiority of this method, that I could with difficulty prevent him sending the details of his case, and its treatment, to a Metropolitan daily paper. He

Case 31. had been under the best ordinary treatment for nearly seven years, with little or no benefit; and he was completely and permanently cured in three months by my method. In such cases I believe, after several experiments made on the subject, that the best remedies to employ are combinations of the bisulphuret and the iodide of mercury in the proportions, or nearly so, which I have mentioned in the details of the case.

The next case is equally remarkable in the effects of the remedies employed, although the duration of the disease was not by any means so long as the preceding; but still, in many respects, the symptoms were of an equally formidable character.

Case 32.

Secondary and constitutional disease of six months' duration, consisting in copper-coloured, scaly blotches on the neck, pustules and tubercles on the face, thickening, with tenderness of the bones of the right leg, and disease of the testis — Failure of ordinary treatments — Rapid and permanent cure by the vapour of the iodide and bisulphuret of mercury.

Symptoms.

A young gentleman, aged 20, contracted gonorrhœa, and a primary sore, late in the autumn of 1848, for which he was treated by a surgeon in the North of England, where he resided. The primary diseases were apparently cured, but soon after the disappearance of the discharge from the urethra, a rash made its appearance all over the body (roseola syphilitica?), which soon died, nearly but not completely, away. Sometime afterwards, blotches of a more decided character appeared on the neck, and on the face, and he began to suffer from pains in the right leg, which were at

Case 32. times sufficiently scvere to occasion lameness. About this time the patient becamc languid, and was troubled occasionally with profuse night perspirations. For thesc symptoms he took various medicines under the direction of expcrienced surgeons; and, about six months aftcr the first appearance of the skin disease, hc placcd himself under my carc.

Whcn I first examined this gentlcman he prcsented a most formidable array of constitutional symptoms. On the face were forty or fifty pustules, with hard, nodular bases; and, in the substance of the left cheek, two tubercles, each as large as a horsebean, and one on the back of the neck still largcr, the surfaces of which wcre beginning to inflamc. On thc fore part of the neck were a number of copper-coloured scaly blotches of the size of a shilling; and thc body gcnerally was covered with a faint copper-coloured mottling, into which the first rash had subsided. The right tcstis was three times thc size of the left, and the tibia of thc right lcg much cnlarged, very painful at night, and tender to the touch; the patient had

evidently taken mercury, for his gums were spongy, and the breath had a strong fetor; yet his disease had gradually progressed, and new symptoms were from time to time added to the old. Case 32.

Formidable as the details of this case must appear, I felt certain of a speedy and permanent cure under the use of the moist vapour of the iodide of mercury in a short time. I directed a bath, with three drachms of the bisulphuret of mercury, and one of the iodide, to be administered every other day, with the head immersed, and to be continued for half an hour; the patient was ordered also to take freely of the compound decoction of guaiacum, with small doses of the iodide of potassium, and three grains of the acetic extract of colchicum, and one of the extract of opium every night. Treatment.

The first bath relieved the pains in the leg, and other parts; and, after the second, the tibia might be pressed without flinching; and the pains, except at such a time, were altogether gone; the hard bases of the tubercles, even at

Case 32. this early period, were less, and the tubercles softer. Very little medicine was taken in this case. The patient drank a cup of guaiacum tea two or three times a day, in which were dissolved three grains of the iodide of potassium, and he took also a dose of opium at bed-time. Such remedies alone, and in such doses, would have exerted but little influence over so formidable a disease, and many of the symptoms could not have been expected to yield at all to such medicines. The cure was complete in five weeks, and it has been real and permanent; no relapse nor return of complaint in any form. The general health has been also, as it commonly is, much improved by the treatment.

Remarks on complicated syphilis.

In cases of complicated constitutional Syphilis, such as the one just detailed, we cannot estimate too highly the plan of treatment by the moist mercurial fume. In such and similar cases the symptoms are so numerous and varied, that, in the ordinary way, we are almost at a loss to know what kind of internal treatment to recommend. No plan is laid down by

authors of the greatest experience for cases like the present. In speaking of complicated Syphilis, Ricord says, "We must treat the epiphenomenon of the disease, let it be whatever it may, and that the worst treatment is that which is exclusively directed towards the removal of one symptom, when ten others require modifications." Such advice, it must be confessed, is tolerably vague. Case 32.

When the disease has been still further complicated by the internal administration of mercury, and we find fetor of the breath, with a spongy condition of the gums, and a certain amount of debility, and *malaise*, with night perspirations which commonly set in at these periods; the difficulties of treatment are much increased. In such states a further internal treatment by mercury is inadmissible, and might even prove fatal, and iodine offers but little better prospect of success.

At these periods, and in such cases, the moist mercurial fume, employed in the manner and with the modifications I have already detailed, is all but certain in its effects. The

Case 32. patient soon begins to amend, the evils caused by the internal administration of mercury soon pass off; the appetite, strength, and general health rapidly improve, whilst the symptoms of constitutional taint are quickly and permanently eradicated.

Concluding observations on the prevention of secondary syphilis.

It would be useless to enlarge this work with a detail of cases, which present little variety in the plan of treatment proposed, although there may be some difference in the history of the cases, and the detail of symptoms. I have now personally treated considerably more than a thousand cases of Secondary Syphilis on the plan described in the preceding pages. I have not merely seen these cases from time to time, but I have attended them from the commencement to the end of the treatment, and have carefully noted its effects on their particular symptoms from day to day. From these cases I have selected the thirty-two, which are given in the preceding pages, and which afford a type of the more common and

frequent, as well as of the more uncommon and formidable, varieties of Secondary and Constitutional Syphilis. The cures, in many of these cases, have been so rapid, permanent, and remarkable, that the success attendant on the earlier cases treated on this plan was a matter of surprise and astonishment even to myself. Observations.

I saw a lady, in the course of last year, in a neighbouring county, who was married during the time her husband was suffering from an eruption of a venereal character, of the nature of which he was ignorant. She soon became affected with a similar eruption, and afterwards with disease of the bones of the right leg, and the bones of the face, which had, from time to time, been diseased and exfoliated, for a period of eighteen years. This lady was completely cured in four months by the moist vapour of the iodide of mercury.

When I first saw this case I considered it hopeless, and suggested the baths as a forlorn hope; and, as I have just said, I was astonished at the effect of my own remedy. I have now so much confidence in the plan, that

Observations. I believe there are very few cases to be met with that would resist its judicious employ.

Management of primary sores. In this volume, and the cases I have detailed, I have considered the remedy in its curative effects on Secondary and Constitutional Syphilis only, and have not at all entered into the question of its preventive power in warding off constitutional disease, when used during the treatment of a primary venereal sore. I believe that, in a vast majority of instances of primary venereal ulcers, that no secondary or constitutional disease would occur, if such ulcers were treated with mild topical applications, occasional aperients exhibited, excesses avoided, and the moist vapour of the binoxide, or iodide of mercury, used twice a week till the sore has healed. I have treated many ulcers on this plan, and have not seen one succeeded by a secondary disease.

Abortive treatment of buboes, and the various forms of adenitis. There is another primary, or rather consecutive symptom, which is in most cases materially benefited by the moist mercurial fume; I allude to the various forms of bubo, adenitis, or lymphitis. It has been a main object with

all practically conversant with venereal diseases, to prevent the suppuration of buboes, hence a vast number of plans have been proposed by surgeons with this object.* Most of these plans require the confinement of the patient to the bed, or to a sofa, and are manifestly on this account very inconvenient; those which consist in an internal treatment by mercury, pushed to salivation, are also attended with evils, which in many cases render the remedy worse than the disease. I have tried most if not all of these plans, and I have found the treatment by the moist mercurial fume more efficacious than any of them; it is quicker, safer, and more certain than any of the methods commonly in use, when combined with a mild, internal treatment suited to the nature of the case. It presents two great advantages: it need not, in a great majority of cases, confine the patient whilst it disperses the bubo, and protects the patient against any secondary

Observations.

* See 'The Modern Treatment of Syphilitic Diseases,' pp. 124, 129, for a full account of these plans. London, 1845. Churchill.

Observations. disease, consequent upon such dispersion; there being a popular notion prevalent, not without some degree of foundation, that buboes dispersed or driven back are more likely to be followed by secondary or constitutional disease than though they had been allowed to suppurate.

FINIS.

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